

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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OCTOBER 1959



Pilgrim Congregational Church

Chattanooga, Tennessee



From The Co-President's Viewpoint - - -

In recent months the writer has heard or read hundreds of reports of local churches, conferences, seminaries and colleges. One thing has been common to them all — an “expansion and development program.”

No longer does a self-respecting church or school admit to erecting new buildings or seeking new members or enrolling more students. Instead, it projects an “expansion and development program.” Everywhere in the United States our churches are moving out to the suburbs, building new educational units, refurbishing old buildings and installing multiple ministries. How much is it our statisticians report churches in the U. S. spent on new buildings last year? More than eight hundred million dollars.

Both “expansion” and “development” have something to do with the goal Jesus set for the church in the Great Commission. The “development” of the church, if it can be thought of as distinct from the “expansion” of Christianity, is no less wondrous and dramatic. Wherever the church has failed to develop, Christianity has regressed, or at the least, recessed. It is possible that the opposite is not true. Almost any historian could probably put his finger on times and places where the devel-

opment of the church as an institution was accompanied by a decline of Christianity.

We church people are caught in a dilemma. If we are to be the church, we must engage ourselves in an intensive “expansion and development program.” Yet if we do, we are in mortal danger of “expanding and developing” the church out of its main business.

We cannot live comfortably under the eyes of some of our visitors from abroad who look in utter amazement at the cathedral proportions of so many of our churches — the wealth of their members and their dizzying busy-ness. Occasionally such visitors ask whether or not we are certain that we are aiming at the right goal and whether we are positive that we are engaged in the “right” fight. These are honest questions and we must answer them honestly.

It does not take extended study to find out that as surely as we cannot equate bigness with rightness or busy-ness with spiritual discernment, we cannot equate smallness with possession of Christian grace or inactivity with genuine spiritual achievement. The weight of the times and of Scripture probably is on the side of our present engagement in “expansion and development programs.”

It is just possible, however, that we do not sufficiently think through what we are “expanding and developing” for! There is some question whether or not we are justified in “expanding and developing” just because all the other churches are doing so!

There is no doubt that we must have sanctuaries appropriate to the worship of God, and school faculties and facilities at least as adequate as those we provide for secular education and for public and private social enterprises. No one questions that we must have leadership competent to minister helpfully to the spiritual needs of the congregations.

What must not be forgotten is that “expansion and development” are not an end in themselves. The church is God's people and it has been established for a purpose. The church is the redeemed community, redeemed not to perfection or to consume all its energy

and resources in mutual admiration and self-nurture. It is a people redeemed to be God's ready tools for penetrating the whole of society everywhere.

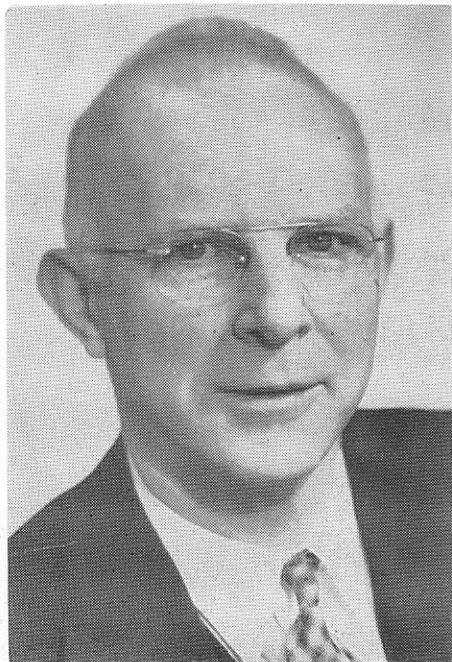
A church that has “expanded and developed” itself until it has no strength or vision left to be such a “tool” has “expanded and developed” itself out of business. On the other hand, a church that responsibly looks at its world takes the measure of the needs it finds, which under God it must undertake to meet, and then moves forthrightly to engage in an “expansion and development program” to meet those needs!

That is what an “expansion and development program” really is about!

The man being invited by Jesus to “sign up” and come along with him agreed upon condition that he could begin his service with a furlough while he buried his father. It was a condition completely unacceptable to the Lord and was peremptorily rejected. “Let the dead bury the dead.”

Might there not be a similar rejection by the Holy Spirit if we should say: “Yes, just as soon as we get our ‘expansion and development program’ completed, you may count on us to get at the full mission of the church, but now please give us a furlough.” I don't know, but I wonder!

(Dr. Fred Hoskins is Minister of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches and Co-President of the United Church of Christ. This article is re-printed from THE UNITED CHURCH HERALD.)



DR. FRED HOSKINS

SEC-PF Executive Board Holds Planning Sessions

The Executive Board of the SEC-PF met at Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, recently to check on the work of the Commissions and to plan for the Spring Conference. Those attending were: Peggy Hammock, Julia Slagle, Lindianne Roberson, Melissa Kelley, Peter Sanford, Ann Turner.

Mrs. J. M. Gager Jr. and Jimmy Kennedy of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga also met with us. Jimmy Kennedy was elected treasurer to fill the unexpired term of Peter Sanford, who plans to go into some branch of the armed services.

A Friendly Service For Boys And Girls

"No more pencils, no more books" is a familiar refrain to young and old. At the church-related schools in Angola, however, it takes on an entirely different meaning, for to many boys and girls the lack of a few angolares for a pencil may mean the difference between getting or not getting an education. Families in Angola are willing to make great sacrifices for some kind of education for their children, but more often than not raising enough money for tuition fees strains the family budget to the breaking point. Many children arrive at village and station schools without the most meager school supplies. Students at the domestic schools and short summer courses offered by the church are in the same situation — young girls eager to learn some of the rudiments of sewing have only a pitiful scrap of cloth for practicing and learn to knit by using the same yarn over and over again.

The mission budget doesn't allow for expenditures such as this so the boys and girls in our church schools are being asked to help out. We wish that it were possible to send the supplies which are needed directly from your church school to Angola. The giving of such direct gifts usually has more meaning for boys and girls. But customs regulations and high duty costs in Angola make this system impractical and ultimately a bad use of our own resources.

Our missionaries have therefore requested that money gifts "in lieu of Friendly Service" be sent so that they may purchase in the name of boys and girls in this country school supplies when and where they see the need.

If you wish to make this project more real to your boys and girls, try making posters with cut-outs of school supplies and the amount of money necessary to purchase them. Or have your class make an offering box in the shape of a school house. This project is suitable for all age-groups and for all economic situations. Small amounts of money are needed and boys and girls may be encouraged to give from their own resources rather than their parents' resources. Money should be sent to Carl H. Holdridge, Treasurer, American Board, 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass., clearly designated "School Supplies for Angola — Friendly Service

First Town And Country Convocation A Success

Approximately 450 Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian pastors from town and country churches across the nation gathered on the campus of Oberlin College September 1-3.

They came to hear noted church and agricultural leaders present major addresses within the context of the overall theme, "The Christian Witness in the Rural Revolution." After hearing the addresses they broke up into small discussion groups to talk over what they had heard. The results of these discussions, along with the addresses, were subjects of panel discussions by leaders.

It was soon apparent that the pastors believe the church has a major role to play in town and country life and that it is not living up to its potential in this regard.

Major addresses were delivered by Dr. Victor Obenhaus, Chicago Theological Seminary; Robert G. Lewis, Agricultural C-ordinator for the Governor of Wisconsin; Dr. William G. Mather, Pennsylvania State College; Dr. E. W. Mueller, National Lutheran Council; Dr. Rockwell C. Smith, Garrett Biblical Institute; Dr. Purd Deitz, Board of National Missions; and Dr. Clarence Jordan, Koinonia Farm, Americus, Ga.

The new town and country film, "No More Uprooted" was premiered and discussed.

Gift."

There is excellent material for children and young people available on Africa. Be sure and write to the nearest Missions Council address for a list of denominational resources and the annual Friendship Press announcement. Missions Council offices are located at the following addresses: 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.; 287 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.; and 19 South LaSalle Street, Chicago 3, Ill. We would draw your attention particularly to the story leaflet "School for Jesse", which is available in quantity (5c each, 50c a dozen) and is related to this project.

School supplies are needed in other parts of Africa also. For lists of such needs and procedures for sending them, write to "Children's Friendly Service," 287 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, New York.

Rev. Seth Q. Shaver Ordained To Ministry At Central Church

The Reverend Seth Q. Shaver was ordained to the Congregational Christian ministry at a service held in Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga., on September 14.

Prior to the service, Mr. Shaver appeared before an ecclesiastical council called for the purpose of the examining of his fitness for the ministry. The council voted in the affirmative, approving his request.

The Reverend Russell T. Loesch, Minister to Armed Forces and Institutional Chaplains of the Congregational Christian Churches, delivered the sermon for the occasion.

Mr. Shaver graduated from the University of Rochester, N. Y., in 1938. After military service and a business career he decided to enter the ministry. He entered Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga., and graduated June 1, 1959, "Magna Cum Laude." Deciding that the Congregational Christian Fellowship best fit his Christian viewpoint, he united with Central Congregational Church and made application for ordination. The church requested his ordination through the Georgia-South Carolina Conference, and with its approval called the Ecclesiastical Council.

Rev. Samuel D. Nelson, Moderator of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference, presided at the Council. A fellowship supper was held between the council and the service. Rev. Arnold Slater, pastor of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga, served as toastmaster.

Participating in the service which was conducted by Rev. James H. Lightbourne Jr., Superintendent of the Southeast Convention, were, in addition to Mr. Loesch, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Slater, Rev. Guy L. Colbert, Moderator of the Southeast Convention, and Rev. Charles Gerkin, Protestant Chaplain at Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta.

Mr. Shaver anticipates devoting his ministry to the field of institutional chaplaincy. At the present time he is on the staff of Grady Memorial Hospital undergoing training as assistant supervisor of clinical pastoral training.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaver have a son and a daughter.

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Puerto Rico Tour

A tour of Puerto Rico churches, schools, urban and rural institutions, industrial, social and political institutions will begin January 5 from New York and return January 15, 1960, under the direction of The Board of Home Missions. Total cost, including side trip to Virgin Islands, is \$250.00.

For further particulars write to Dr. Walter C. Giersbach, tour director, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 17 — Work Day for Christ
October 18 — Laymen's Sunday
October 25 — World Order Sunday
November 1 — Reformation Sunday
November 6 — World Community Day
November 17-19 — Fall Minister's
Convocation, Southern Union Col-
lege
November 22 — Forefathers' Sunday
November 26 — Thanksgiving
November 29—First Sunday in Advent

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE

October 3-17 — Fall Association and
Conference meetings
October 25 — Columbus, Ga., First
Church

ECHOES OF SUC

Walter A. Graham, President

The 1959-1960 college year has already gotten off to a good start. Pilgrim Hall is filled with girls; Kimball Hall is filled with boys; and all five trailers are also filled with occupants, one of them containing four young men from Sanford, Fla.

In addition to the faculty members reported in the September ECHOES, Mr. Fred Clark has joined the faculty as professor of Biology. Mr. Clark is a graduate of Huntingdon College, with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. He has done graduate work at the University of Michigan and at Tulane University. He was also a teaching fellow in Bowdoin College in Maine. He is married and has one child.

The staff is now complete, the last addition being Mrs. Margaret Behymer from Birmingham, who is the house mother for Kimball Hall and is the assistant dietitian. Mrs. Behymer has already endeared herself to 'her boys' by sewing on buttons and baking cookies.

Although the enrollment for the fall quarter is not entirely complete, the final date for registration being after these ECHOES are due in the hands of the editor, the number may be a little smaller than the fall registration for 1958. More states are represented this year since there are students from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

Elder Hall is boasting of two entirely newly decorated rooms, thanks going to Professor Owen Frost and students Floyd Carmack and Rudolph Starling. Mr. Frost's own classroom and the "little chapel" have had the holes in the walls plastered, the ceilings, walls and floors completely painted and new light fixtures installed in one room, and the fixtures thoroughly cleaned in the other. The difference between the old and the new is indeed startling and many thanks are due these men for their interest and labor.

The college is very proud of the article, "Along Life's Highway", in the July - September 1959 issue of The Church in the Home, page 79. It is written about Mrs. May L. Flickinger, a long-time friend and 10-year trustee of the college. The author is also a friend of the college, Edna Margaret Long, of Massachusetts. The article is a well-deserved tribute to a great

Southern Union College Announces Major Program

The Southern Union College has announced a development and expansion program which is designed to add seven new buildings to its 75-acre campus, and to double its present student body of 250 within the next ten years. It is planned to complete a library building and a physical education building during the next year.

Dr. Walter Graham, president of the college, in releasing the announcement, stated that the first phase of a 10-year fund-raising campaign will be launched immediately to finance the development program.

The first phase of the campaign to raise a minimum of \$300,000 started in Wadley on September 28th and will be expanded throughout the area, as well as over the state.

The second phase, designed to raise the balance of an approximate \$1,000,000 fund within a ten-year period, will follow immediately. This second phase will extend the campaign on a nationwide basis.

Southern Union was founded in 1922 by the Christian Churches of the South. It is related to the Congregational Christian Churches of America, but it is serving the youth of all denominations.

A junior college, it is a charter member of the Alabama Association of Junior Colleges, a member of the American Association of Junior Colleges, the National Commission on Accrediting, and the Alabama Administrator's Association.

Mr. Robert A. Russell, vice-president of the Russell Manufacturing Company of Alexander City, has accepted the General Chairmanship of the campaign and will direct the fund-raising effort. Mr. Russell has appointed Judge J. Tom Radney as General Co-Chairman, and J. C. Henderson as Publicity Chairman. Mr. Russell will appoint area chairmen in various cities in Eastern Alabama, including Alexander City, Ashland, Birmingham, Dadeville, Goodwater, Greenville, LaFayette, Lannett, Lineville, Roanoke, Sylacauga, Talladega, Tallassee, Wadley, Wedowee, and Wetumpka.

Christian statesman and the college is happy to join in paying it now.

People . . .

Pleasant Hill Church Holds Installation - Dedication

The Reverend Frank R. Snavelly was installed as minister and the new church building was dedicated at a special service held on Sunday afternoon, September 27, at the Pleasant Hill Community Church.

The new church building, which will be pictured in a later issue, is a beautiful structure, built of native field stone, of contemporary design, situated on the campus of the Pleasant Hill Community Center. The former church building is continued in use for the Church School and as a fellowship hall.

The former church building, the crafts shop, and the new church form a striking setting on the Cumberland Plateau. Just a short distance down the road is Pioneer Hall, which is also a part of the Center and Church.

The sermon for the happy occasion was delivered by Rev. Serge F. Hummon, Secretary for the Town and Country Church of the Board of Home Missions. Also participating in the service were Dr. Paul R. Reynolds, former minister and director and now pastor emeritus, and Rev. James H. Lightbourne Jr., Superintendent of the Southeast Convention.

Visitors were present from the surrounding communities and from several of the Congregational Christian churches of the Southeast Convention.

An unusual fact in the situation is that the new building, which was completed this year, is paid for.

Mr. Snavelly is a graduate of Union College, Barbourville, Ky., and of the Divinity School, Vanderbilt University. He has served Methodist churches at Gainsboro, Crossville, and Smyrna, Tenn. He accepted the call to the Pleasant Hill Community Church and Center as of June 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Snavelly have three children: David Richardson, Ross Keith, and Michal Elaine.

Prior to the coming of Mr. Snavelly, Dr. Reynolds and Rev. C. Freeman Sleeper shared in the interim ministry. Mr. Earl Clark, a veteran of many years of service on the staff, served as director of the Center during the interim until Mr. Snavelly was called. Mr. Clark will continue on the staff in the widely known crafts program.

Churches . . .

Chattanooga Pilgrim Dedicates New Church

Pilgrim Congregational Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., dedicated its new church building on Sunday, September 20, 1959.

Dr. Stanley U. North, General Secretary of the Division of Church Extension and Evangelism of the Board of Home Missions, delivered the sermon. Also participating in the service was the Rev. James H. Lightbourne Jr., Superintendent of the Southeast Convention.

The church, which is pictured on the front cover, is of contemporary design. The total plant consists of two buildings connected by a colonnade. The main building contains the Sanctuary, parlor, office, minister's study, choir room, class and rest rooms. Its ground level contains a fellowship room, an all-electric kitchen, and class rooms.

The small unit includes the Nursery and Primary and Kindergarten departments.

The Sanctuary is beautiful. The pews for the congregational seating and the chancel appointments are of redwood. The chancel is divided with a stainless steel cross suspended on the wall over the altar table.

Open House was observed from 3 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon during which large numbers of friends and interested persons from the city were shown through the new buildings. Delightful refreshments were served in the beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall.

Pilgrim Church was organized in 1914. Until the new church was completed in the new location at Glenwood and Third, the church worshipped in the lovely Colonial structure at Oak and Lindsey.

Rev. Arnold Slater has served the

Events . . .

Pilgrim Fellowship Rallies Held By Young People

NORTH GEORGIA

The North Georgia Pilgrim Fellowship District had a Rally at Sardis Church, Oxford. Dr. Harold Johnson of Central Church, Atlanta, conducted a panel discussion on "The Parent's Role in Pilgrim Fellowship." Lindianne Roberson, SEC-PF Recording Secretary, and Melissa Kelley, president of the Central Georgia District, conducted workshops.

The following officers were elected: President, Lawrence Mann, Sardis Church; Vice-President, David Starrett, Central Church, Atlanta; Secretary, Bonnie Ruth Boggs, Duncan's Creek; Treasurer, Johnnie Dean Phillips, Duncan's Creek.

Advisor, Mrs. Carl N. Sanford, Central Church, Atlanta.

* * *

CENTRAL GEORGIA

The Central Georgia Pilgrim Fellowship Rally was held at the First Congregational Christian Church, Columbus, Georgia, Sunday, September 27. Central Georgia was delighted to have a good delegation from Pleasant Hill Church, Roberta, for the first time. After a good program the group enjoyed cooling refreshments at the church parsonage.

The following officers were elected for the year:

President, Lindianne Roberson; Vice-President, Ben Elder; Secretary, Linda Williams; Treasurer, Nancy Bush; Reporter, Judith Williams; Faith Commission, Joy Parker; Action Commission, Janice Ellerbee, Fellowship Commission, Melissa Kelley.

church for fifteen years. Under his leadership the church undertook the challenging program of re-locating in a residential area and building a new church.

Pilgrim Church has long been considered one of the most important Congregational Christian Churches in the South. It is one of the most influential churches in Chattanooga.

In its new facilities, it truly is "A Contemporary Church with a Contemporary Ministry."

CORRECTION

A correction, please! Billy Wightman is a member of the Faith Commission and in the picture in the September issue of THE SOUTHEAST NEWS, not David Snavelly.

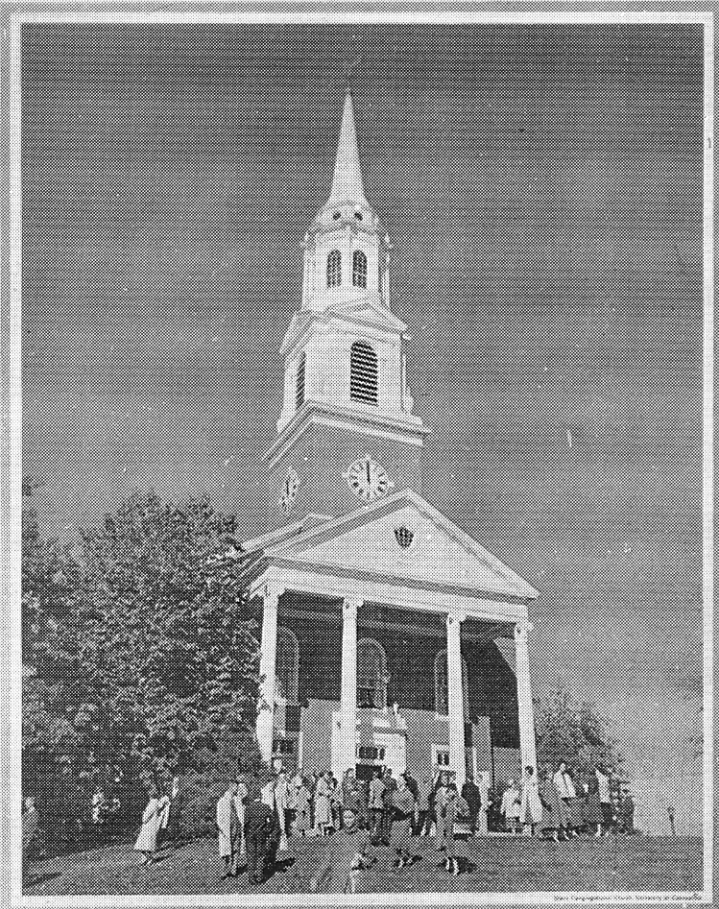
THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Entered as Second Class

7½ MILLION DOLLAR CAMPAIGN

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Education



"YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH WILL MAKE YOU FREE"

GIVE TO
CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION FUND
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

SOUTHEAST CONVENTION GOAL \$25,000